

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20 EB-11 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5790

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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NEW DELHI FOR FERRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PK NARC AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CROP SUBSTITUTION

REF: STATE 135990

SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED REFTEL, EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR D.W. FISCHLER, USDA, MEETINGS WITH SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT ON AGRICULTURE, CHAIRMAN, PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD AND IN KARACHI WITH LEADERSHIP OF PAKISTAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL. IN ALL MEETINGS US REPS STRESYTD NEED FOR IMPROVED PROCEDURE FOR GOP REVIEW OF CROP SUBSTITUTUON RESEARCH PROPOSALS. PAKISTANI OFFICIALS WERE CORDIAL TO FISCHLER AND, ALTHOUGH BUILT IN PROCEDURES THAT HAVE SLOWED PROJECT CLEARANCES MAY NOT BE ALTERED SIGNIFICANTLY IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, PAK OFFICIALS PROMISED TO TRY HARDER TO LOOY N

BOTTLENECKS TO SPEED CLEARANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WORTHWHILE, MUTUALLY BENEFITTING RESEARCH PROJECTS. SIGNIFICANT THAT AT NO TIME WAS THERE EVIDENCE OF RESISTANCE TO CROP SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH AS AN ANTI-NARCOTICS MEASURE. END SUMMARY.

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1. FISCHLER OF USDA UPON ARRIVAL ISLAMABAD WAS BRIEFED BY DCM

AND AG ATT ON CURRENT STATUS MISSION'S ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM
AND GOP STANCE, MISSION OFFICERS INDICATED FULL SUPPORT CROP
SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH WORK AS IN KEEPING WITH EMBASSY APPROACH.

2. AG ATT ACCOMPANIED FISCHLER AND OTHER USDA/ARS OFFICIALS
SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ISLAMABAD ON VISITS TO MALIK KHUDA BAKHSH BUCHA,
SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ON AGRICULTURE AND TO M KAJ HUSAIN,
PRESENT DIRECTOR PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD(PNCB). IN
BUCHA CALL, US REPS EMPHASIZED DESIRABILITY AND NEED TO SPEED
PROCESS OF CLEARANCE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH GOP
RESEARCH BUREAUCRACY. BUCHA PROMISED HIS ASSISTANCE TOWARD THIS
END. US GROUP SPELLED OUT FOR PNCB DIRECTOR HUSSAIN BACKGROUND
OF USDA PL 480 RESEARCH AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS PROGRAM TO
PLAY HELPFUL ROLE IN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM WITHOUT AROUSING
CONFRONTATION. ALTHOUGH NEW, HUSSAIN SEEMED TO SENSE VALUE OF
CROP SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH AND INDICATED HIS SUPPORT FOR
ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATIONS.

3. JULY 10 FISHLER AND GROUP, ACCOMPANIED BY CONGEN COMMERCIAL
OFFICER MET TOP OFFICIALS PAKISTAN AGR. RESEARCH COUNCIL (PARC)
IN KARACHI AND REPEATED NEED FOR SPEEDING COUNCIL CLEARANCE OF
CROP SUBSTITUTION AND OTHER AGRI RESEARCH PROJECTS. ALTHOUGH PARC
RESPONSE CORDIAL IT WAS APPARENT THAT ENTRENCHED BUREAUCRATIC
PROCEDURES INVOLVING NOT ONLY GOP BY PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES
AS WELL ARE NOT LIKELY BE ALTERED SIGNIFICANTLY IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RESPONSES FROM GOP OFFICIALS AT SEVERAL
MEETINGS NOT OVERLY ENCOURAGING IN TERMS OF NEAR-TERM PROSPECTS
FOR PROCEDURAL CHANGES THAT WOULD RESEARCH
IMPLEMENTATION IT WAS USEFUL TO PRESENT USG CASE FOR RESEARCH
AS LOW KEY APPROACH IN ANTI NARCOTICS PROGRAM. ALSO BENEFICIAL
TO OBSERVE NO OBJECTION BY GOP TO CROP SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH
AS A CONCEPT. AS OF THE MOMENT AMONG CROP SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH
PROPOSALS, FIVE APPROVED BY PARC, TWO AWAITING PARC CLEARANCE,
AND FOUR IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.
IN ORDER TO MOVE AHEAD WITH CROP SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH, THE MISSION
IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT USDA IN ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN GOP APPROVAL OF
NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS THAT MAY COME ALONG WITH A VIEW OF REACHING A
LEVEL OF PROJECT ACTIVITY THAT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE
PAKISTANI RESEARCH RESOURCES BUT NOT BEYOND A LEVEL TTKX COULD
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BECOME OBJECTIONABLE TO GOP IN TERMS OF ITS OWN ANTI-NARCOTICS
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.
BYROADE

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